

Revelation 21

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

The Bible begins with the creation of Paradise Earth and ends with a recreated one. Since Adam this Earth has been under the curse for disobedience towards God, so before the New Heaven and Earth come, the Lord has to dissolve this present Universe. It seems that everything in the Universe has been stained by Satan and the fallen angels, so maybe the words “[the prince of the power of the air](#)” have more to them than first realised (Ephesians 2:2).

After the Millennial Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ this present earth and universe will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10-13, Isaiah 34:4, Isaiah 51:6; Psalm 102:25-26; Matthew 24:35).

[2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.](#)

[Psalm 102:25-26 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed.](#)

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

This will make way for the creation of a new earth and universe. The original earth took six days to create, but the new earth will be created in an instant. This means that everything will be created just as it was in the beginning. Because of this we know that there will be no more sickness, pain and death, no more storms, floods or natural disasters.

It seems that the earth will be a single land mass as it was in the beginning. “No more sea” may mean that there will be no oceans (though there will be lakes and rivers), or that the water will be in a single location rather than having several oceans and seas. This new creation will be eternal (Isaiah 65:17, 66:22).

Isaiah 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

There is to be a New Jerusalem on the New Earth. This city will represent God’s presence on earth just as it did when the first earthly temple was built. We shall learn more about the New Jerusalem later. It should be noted that this city is not designed or constructed on earth, but literally comes down from Heaven. It is not Heaven itself as some suggest, for it comes “out of Heaven”. Is this the place Jesus spoke of in John 14:1-3?

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for

you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Jesus said He was going to “prepare a place” for us, and this text says it is “prepared”, so we cannot miss the intended meaning. This is the City all true believers are looking for (Hebrews 11:10; Galatians 4:26).

Hebrews 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Galatians 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

John speaks of it as a bride adorned for her husband. This has led some to believe that this city is symbolic of the Church. This should not be read into the text or else we will have to reinterpret Revelation according to a historical setting. This is the mistake that the Roman Catholic Church and the Reformed Churches have fallen into.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Here we have the true meaning of the New Jerusalem. It is the dwelling place of God on earth. God built the first earth so that He could have fellowship with man. This is exactly what is going to happen in the future new earth – a Heaven on earth! No other so-called gods will come to mind, not even a mention of them, so Allah, Krishna, and Buddha will be totally unknown. The whole earth will serve one God. His presence will never leave His people.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying,

neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Everything of the old earth will be forgotten. This verse reveals that life will be perfect on the new earth. Sin and suffering will be unknown. Never again will even one tear of sadness be shed (Revelation 7:17, Isaiah 25:8, Isaiah 65:19; 1 Corinthians 15:54).

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the LORD God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 65:19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

1 Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Simply put, we will have nothing to be sad or cry about.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Nothing of the old earth will remain or else the new will be built upon death. This means that there will be no fossil or archaeological records to be found. God is always true to His Word, so if everything is going to be new, rather than renewed or renovated as some suggest, then it is going to be. There will be a

restoration of the conditions that existed before the Fall (Acts 3:21), but this will be on the New Earth instead.

Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Revelation declares God to be the Creator of both the old earth and the new; only fools disbelieve this.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

He is the Sovereign Lord, the eternal God. In God's purposes this is already done and He is sure to bring it to completion. He knows the end from the beginning. The clock has been set, the hours are ticking away, and the time will come when all this will be completed just as He promised.

All who trust and believe in Him and His Word will have eternal life without price. Those who are thirsty enough are invited to eternal fellowship with God (Revelation 7:17; Isaiah 55:1-2; John 4:13-14; 7:37-38).

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Isaiah 55:1-2 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of

the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 7:37-38 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

This, since it is part of Divine Grace, is a free gift made available to all who will believe.

The “Fountain of the Water of Life” is both spiritual, as indicated above, and literal as seen in Revelation 22:2,17.

Revelation 22:2,17 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. [17] And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Those who receive Christ as Lord and Saviour must overcome the old earth if they are to be citizens of the new (1 John 5:4-5).

1 John 5:4-5 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

We must live as the sons of God in this present evil world (Philippians 2:15).

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.

Those who refuse to bow to this world will inherit the new earth and all the blessings God has promised (1 Peter 1:4-5; Romans 8:17; 1 Corinthians 3:21-23; Hebrews 1:2).

1 Peter 1:4-5 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

Hebrews 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

While we await this event, faith must be upheld and used in standing firm.

Note that the overcomers mentioned are a reminder of the seven churches in Revelation 2-3.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The outcome for those who do not overcome, but compromise with the world, is very different. The list in this verse is very complete. Not only are these evils in the world but also in the church today. These are the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-20).

Galatians 5:19-20 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these ; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies.

Are many churches free from such things? Those who practice these evils, regardless if they claim to be Christians, are doomed to the Lake of Fire unless they repent. The point is; it is our choice. Will we be citizens of Heaven or of the Lake of Fire?

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

An angel calls John to view the New Jerusalem, the capital city of the new earth. The city is described as being the bride of Christ. This has led some to interpret the New Jerusalem as being symbolic of the Church. The actual city is being described here, and every city has its inhabitants. Both the location and the people are called the city. If we were to say, "The whole town went to the football game", we surely don't believe that the buildings moved from their places. If we keep this in context with the rest of the text, with Revelation 3:12, the explanation is simple ... "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."

The bride (wife) of Christ is the citizenship of the New Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 15:35-53; John 14:1-3).

1 Corinthians 15:35-53 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Every city reflects the glory and honour of its people. The people make the city glorious.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

John is carried to a high mountain (place) to view the New Jerusalem descending from Heaven. He was given a great vantage point so that he could describe as fully as possible what he saw in his vision. He viewed the walls, gates, foundations, street, river, tree and much more.

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

As mentioned above, the city reflects the glory of its inhabitants, and since we know that New Jerusalem will be God's dwelling place, it reflects His glory most of all. John expresses what he saw in human language, but it is impossible to fully describe the glories and wonders of the Heavenly City.

The whole city radiated with brilliant light. The colour of the light was green like a jasper stone yet crystal clear (transparent).

12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

The walls are great and high. We will come to the measurements of the city in verse 16. Within the walls are set twelve gates. Each gate has the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel upon it. At each gate an angel stands guard. This should be taken literally or else what would the symbolism mean? It is far too detailed to be any kind of typology. If it describes the church then we need to figure out what it means in the light of Scripture. John said it describes the literal New Jerusalem!

13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

The city stands four square. Each wall (east, north, south and west) has three gates. Truly New Jerusalem will be the centre of the New Earth. The nations of the earth will come from all directions to pay homage to the King of Heaven and Earth.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The city wall has twelve foundation stones laid in it. There may be three on each side of the wall. The stones are engraved with the names of the twelve apostles of Christ (Ephesians 2:20).

Ephesians 2:20 **And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.**

15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

John is handed a measuring stick to measure the city, its gates and its walls. This means that the city has shape and size, therefore cannot be symbolic.

16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

The city is square and is as wide as it is long and high. This is an enormous city, but its measurements should be taken literally. It is approximately 1,400 miles long, wide and high. This means in total 2,225,000 square miles or 3,375,000,000 cubit miles (figures are approximates). The height is probably the measurement of its tallest building.

There is some debate about whether the city is cube shaped or shaped like a pyramid. It is of significance that the Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple was a perfect cube, therefore the New Jerusalem, the Holy City, may be a cube, too (1 Kings 6:20).

1 Kings 6:20 *And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar.*

Some commentators suggest that the Heavenly City will descend in cube form, and will be unfolded into the shape of the Cross of Christ.

17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

The walls are approximately 144 cubits or 266 feet high. Many commentators see this as referring to the thickness of the walls, but it can just as well indicate their height. It is not common for walls to be as high as the city they surround, therefore the "wall" (singular) is likely to be the perimeter wall rather than the actual walls of the City itself. Note the distinction in the next verse.

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

The wall (singular) is made of jasper stone. The wall will sparkle with the reflected glory of God. The city, different to the outer wall, itself is constructed from pure, crystal clear gold. The

buildings will be dazzling gold which again speaks of God's glory. It is impossible for man to purify gold so that it is clear as glass, but God can and will.

19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald.

Now John describes the twelve foundation stones more fully. It is impossible for us to add a particular name to each of the stones, but John does say what precious stone they are constructed from.

1st Stone: Jasper – a green rock-like crystal.

2nd Stone: Sapphire – a sky-blue stone with specks of gold.

3rd Stone: Chalcedony – luminous green like a peacock's tail.

4th Stone: Emerald – the greenest of all gemstones.

20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

5th Stone: Sardonyx – this stone has various colours within it, white, red, and brown.

6th Stone: Sardius: a blood-red stone.

7th Stone: Chrysolite – a dazzling green stone.

8th Stone: Beryl – Sea-blue / green stone.

9th Stone: Topaz – a transparent, greenish-gold stone.

10th Stone: Chrysoprasus – an apple green stone.

11th Stone: Jacinth – a violet, bluish-purple stone.

12th Stone: Amethyst – a violet, bluish-purple stone, but more dazzling than the jacinth.

Did you ever wonder why the devil has the new age crowd running around after crystals? He's trying to counterfeit God's New Jerusalem.

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

The gates of the city are made from gigantic pearls. One pearl for each gate. If you think they're huge, what about the oyster they came from! The street of the New Jerusalem is pure, crystal-clear gold. This is the place where the Lord Jesus Christ promised to build you a mansion (John 14:1-6)!

John 14:1-6 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

The city will require no building for a temple. God the Father and Jesus are its temple. Notice that temple is singular. Do you still doubt the Trinity? The place of worship will be at the feet of God Almighty. No one will be without the presence of God. This also

means that there will be no need of ceremonies, rituals or other human forms of worship. Then it will certainly be true ... “**They that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth**” (John 4:24). This means that the believer’s fellowship with God will be without any limitation of nature.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

There will be no sun, moon or stars illuminating the New Jerusalem. Instead, God’s glory will be its sole source of light. Who is the Light? The Lamb is, for Jesus said, “**I am the light of the world**” (John 9:5; 8:12; Colossians 1:12).

John 8:12 **Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

Colossians 1:12 **Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.**

The prophet Isaiah says that the Light will be the “LORD” – Jehovah (Isaiah 60:19).

Isaiah 60:19 **The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.**

Once aligned these two passages can only mean one thing. The glorious light of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ is the sole power source of the City.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

All the saved will walk in the light radiating from Christ. This also means that the city, as the earth's capital, will influence all the other cities on earth at that time. They will be governed in the knowledge, righteousness and purity of God. The leaders of other nations, and their peoples, will honour and worship the King of kings and Lord of lords. Who are the kings of these nations? Revelation 5:10 may be of great significance to us ... **“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”** The whole earth will have access to God.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

The twelve gates remain open forever. It will constantly be daytime. There will never be any night. This again speaks of unbroken access to God. Since there is no night, does that mean there will be no sleeping? How can we say? But we do know we will rest in the Lord forever. City gates were always shut at night for fear of invasion, but since there cannot exist any external threats, there is no reason for them to be shut.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

It is reiterated again that the glory of nations will be brought into the New Jerusalem to God. Jesus Christ will be the King over all the earth ... **“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this”** (Isaiah 9:6-7).

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Only true believers have part of the citizenship of the New Jerusalem. No evil, compromising, ecumenical, or perverted person will ever enter in. If your name is not in the Lamb's Book of life on this side of eternity, you will not enter into His New Jerusalem on the other side.